

A Sampling of Interactive online technologies for classrooms

Wikis, Moodle and Blackboard

What is a wiki?

- Very simply a wiki is a collection of websites (simplest online database that could possibly work)
- The power of a wiki is that it can be collaborative which means that anyone who has access to them can modify them
- The collaborative nature of wikis allow knowledge to be built up, edited, refined by more than one person

Lingo

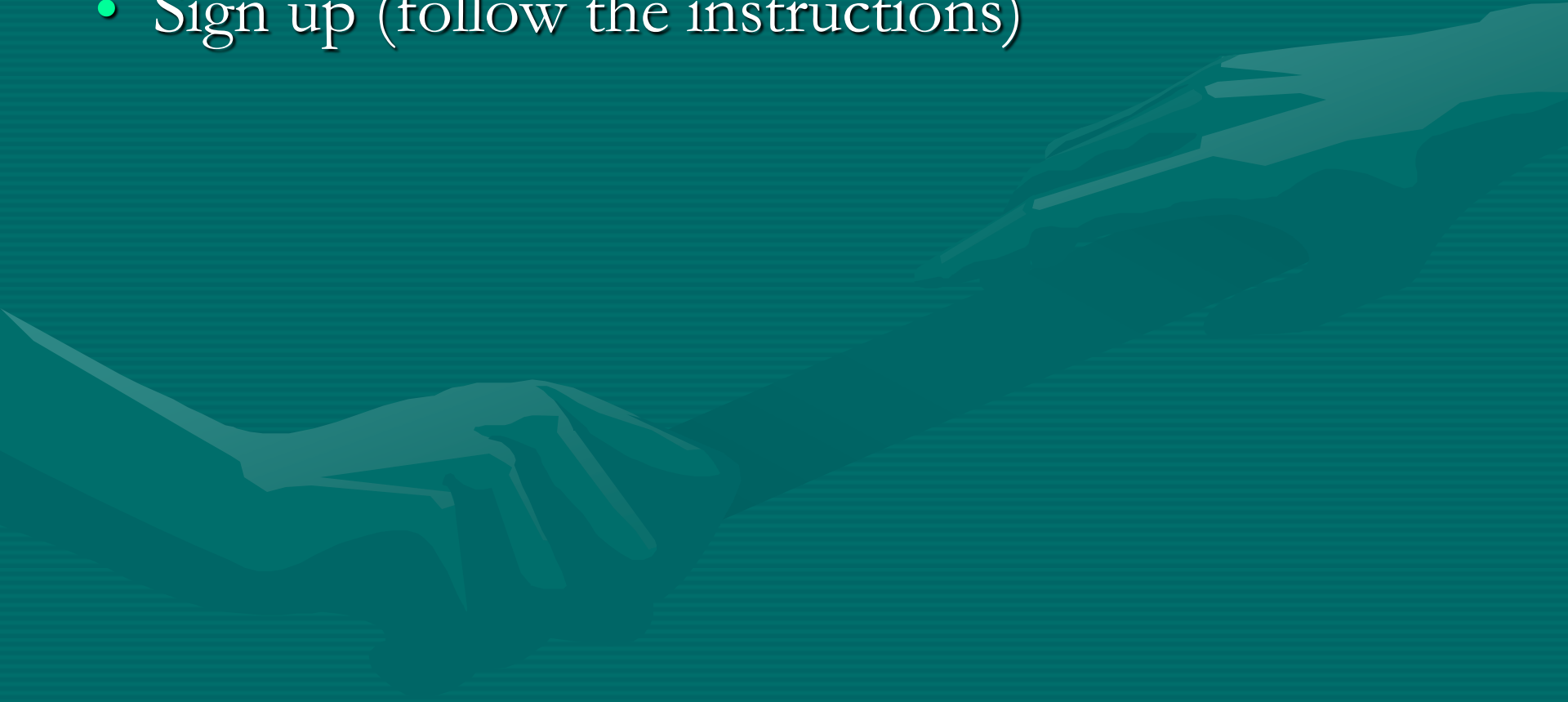
- Wiki is a Hawaiian word for fast
- Sometimes wiki is thought to be an acronym for “what I know is” but this actually a backronym (acronym made up after the concept already existed)

Why use a Wiki?

- Web 2.0 generation has adopted this technology and if we, as teachers, reject it for its deficiencies, we risk becoming irrelevant in the eyes of our students
- Collaborative networks can be very powerful (just look at the size and scope of wikipedia)
- Posting assignments, notes, presentations is a solution to the photocopying excess that exists in schools

How to create your own wiki

- Go to www.wikispaces.com
- Sign up (follow the instructions)



Now it's your turn to try

- Start with wikispaces and do the following
- 1) Sign up for an account
- 2) Create your own wiki entitled (make the appropriate adjustments): yourschool-grade12yoursubject or yourname-grade12yoursubject
- 3) Create a list of pages for each of the units
- 4) On one of the pages upload a file (you will continue working on this page throughout the course and upload all your files here)
- Invite the rest of the class to your wikispace

Other Systems: Moodle

- There are other information sharing systems that are free and have more of a direct relationship to education
- Here is a brief guide to introduce you to moodling
- Log on to the demonstration moodle site at
- <http://demo.moodle.net/login/index.php>
(follow the login instructions)

Moodle Activity

- Once you are signed in go to the moodle demonstration site
- Click on English: Moodle Features Demo
- Look at the different features of Moodle and try the following:
 - A) Choice – try choice with anonymous results and choice with non-anonymous results (use the Features Demo button to return to the main Demo page)

Continue the Moodle Activity

- B) Do Lesson 1 Basic Parts and Lesson 2 Question Types and read the Lesson Module documentation
- C) Try the listening quiz, the quiz with a password and read the quiz module documentation
- D) Try out some of the other features at your discretion

Blackboard

- You are presently in a classroom on-line environment – reflect on your experience
- How effective is this environment for education – what would you change if you could?

Reflection

- How do you see wikis and moodle working in your classroom (if at all)?
- What are the benefits – how can this improve student learning?
- What are the concerns and constraints?

nesia

ål)

A caution before citing Wikipedia

As with any source, especially one of unknown authorship, you should be wary and independently verify the accuracy of Wikipedia information if possible for many purposes, but particularly in academia, Wikipedia may not be an acceptable source;^[1] indeed, some professors and teachers may reject Wikipedia material completely. This is especially true when it is used uncorroborated.

We advise special caution when using Wikipedia as a source for research projects. Normal academic usage of Wikipedia and other encyclopedias is for the general facts of a problem and to gather keywords, references and bibliographical pointers, but not as a source in itself. Remember that Wikipedia is which means that anyone in the world can edit an article, deleting accurate information or adding false information, which the reader may not recognize.

However, we are also confident that Wikipedia provides good overviews of most topics that it covers. See [Wikipedia:Researching with Wikipedia](#), [Caution academic use of Wikipedia](#) and our [General Disclaimer](#) page, for more information.

A [wiki](#) is an unusual [medium](#), and as such doesn't conform well to the usual book-citation formats. [Wiki is not paper](#), so you will need to use an electronic format instead. The exact format will depend upon the citation guide that you are following, but here are a few general principles to consider:

- A special citation tool is available to assist you. On the left of every article, there is a "Cite this article" link. Clicking it will bring you to a listing of relevant information, as well as automatically generated citations in several styles. Note that it is still *your* responsibility to ensure the citation meets all requirements.
- You should *not* cite any particular author or authors for a Wikipedia article, in general. Wikipedia is collaboratively written. However, if you do need to list the list of authors of a particular article, you can check the [Page history](#). Authors are listed only by [IP address](#) or chosen user name; you normally cannot and often cannot even guess at their identities.
- Your citation should normally list both the article title and *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, much as you would for an article in a paper publication. The article should be a separate citation.
- Most citation styles will likely require the full article URL. You can click "Permanent link" in the toolbox at the left of this page. This lets the URL include a unique identifier such that you can tie your reference back to the exact version of the article you are referencing. It may or may not be desirable to adopt this approach, depending upon the context of your reference. This lets you show what you saw and ignore any changes made after you accessed the page. If greater brevity is desired, you can use the regular URL, or optionally just the site URL (e.g. <http://en.wikipedia.org/> [↗](#) for an English article), because the full URL can be inferred from an article title.
- The citation style may request the full date and time of the article revision you are using. If you use the permanent link feature, this may not be necessary. However, the date and time of the last revision can be found at the bottom of every page (above the copyright notice).

Examples

The following examples assume you are citing the Wikipedia article on [Plagiarism](#), using the version that was submitted on July 22, 2004, at 10:55 UTC, but you retrieved the article on August 10, 2004, except as otherwise noted.

APA style

Citation in [APA style](#), as recommended by the [American Psychological Association](#): [1] [↗](#)

References

- 1) Tapscott, D. & Williams, A. (2006) Wikinomics How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything. Portfolio: New York
- 2) *Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia*. (2004, July 22). FL: Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. Retrieved July 8, 2008 from <http://www.wikipedia.org>